

- Madam Speaker, I rise today to promote early childhood programs, which are investments not only in our children, but in our country's future.

- In 1990, the Child Care and Development Block Grant was created for low income parents who are either working or in school.

- If the proposed cuts to Child Care and Development Block Grants are signed into law, 150,000 families nationwide would lose child care subsidies.

- In my home state, the annual cost of child care for an infant can be nearly \$12,000 and the annual cost for a toddler can be over \$9,000.

- Head Start is another vital service that has provided educational, health, nutritional, and social services to three and four year olds since 1965.

- If the cuts proposed in H.R. 1 become a reality, 218,220 children nationwide would lose access to Head Start and approximately 55,000 Head Start employees would lose their job.

- 3,719 children in New Jersey would be left without access to Head Start, and we already have 9,500 children on the waiting list.

- As Congress continues to debate funding for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2011, we must support vital programs like block grants and Head Start.